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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/899,758	07/05/2001	Yoichi Ono	9319S-000235	2546

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EXAMINER
CARRILLO, BIBI SHARIDAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1746	5

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	ONO ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit Sharidan Carrillo

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

 a) All b) Some * c) None of:

 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 7 are indefinite for the following reasons. It is unclear the relationship between the cleaning bath and that of the pre-cleaning step. Specifically, it is unclear whether the cleaning is performed by placing the hydrocarbon/ surfactant cleaning mixture in a cleaning bath, followed by replacing the mixture in the cleaning bath with only the hydrocarbon solvent or whether two cleaning baths are used, one for each cleaning step. The limitations of "the inside of a cleaning bath" lacks positive antecedent basis. In the last line of claim 1, it is unclear whether "the cleaning liquid" refers to the hydrocarbon-based cleaning liquid containing no surfactant. Claim 7 is further indefinite because it is unclear what applicant intends by the phrase "changing a pressure". How exactly is the pressure being changed? Is the pressure being changed before each step or during each step and to what value?

Claim 2 is indefinite because it is unclear how the work can be inclined with respect to a step. Claim 3 is indefinite because it is unclear how the work can be moved up and down with respect to a step. It is unclear whether the phrase "moved up and down" refers to the positioning of the work inside a cleaning bath. Claim 4 is indefinite because of its dependency.

Claims 5-6 recite a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal device. However, both claims are directed to cleaning. The examiner suggests amending claim 5 to recite a "The

cleaning method according to claim 1, wherein the work comprises a liquid crystal panel". The examiner suggests amending the preamble of claim 6 to "The cleaning method according to claim 5....". Further, it is unclear whether the liquid crystal panels are placed adjacent to each other in the cleaning bath.

Claim 8 is indefinite because it is unclear what is meant by a "reduced state" and a original state. Further, is the original state prior to the work being immersed in the cleaning bath. Claims 9-10 are indefinite because of its dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

4. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nalewajek et al. (6355113).

Nalewajek et al. teach cleaning a work by first contacting the work with a hydrocarbon and a surfactant, followed by rinsing with only the hydrocarbon solvent (col. 8, lines 1-10, col. 16, lines 40-55, col. 17, lines 35-40). In view of the indefiniteness directed to the changing of pressure, reduced state, and original state, the limitations are inherently met by Nalewajek et al.

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson (3714075) or Scherliker et al. (3085918).

Johnson et al. teach cleaning a work by first contacting the work with a hydrocarbon and a surfactant, followed by rinsing with only the hydrocarbon solvent (col. 1, lines 45-65, col. 2, lines 15-30, col. 4, lines 30-40, col. 4, lines 60-65; col. 6, lines 1-10). In view of the indefiniteness directed to the changing of pressure, reduced state, and original state, the limitations are inherently met by Johnson et al.

Sherliker et al. teach cleaning a work by first contacting the work with a hydrocarbon and a surfactant, followed by rinsing with only the hydrocarbon solvent (col. 2, lines 60-65, col. 3, lines 35-45, col. 4, lines 65-75). In view of the indefiniteness directed to the changing of pressure, reduced state, and original state, the limitations are inherently met by Sherliker et al.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hanamura, Graham, and Sherliker et al. teach cleaning with a hydrocarbon and surfactant mixture followed by cleaning with a hydrocarbon.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-6 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art fails to teach the limitations as recited claim 1. Further, claim 7 would be

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allowable if the limitations of both claims 9-10 were incorporated into claim 7 in independent form.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharidan Carrillo whose telephone number is 703-308-1876. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:00a.m-2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy P. Gulakowski can be reached on 703-308-4333. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7719 for regular communications and 703-305-7719 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Sharidan Carrillo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1746

bsc
December 12, 2002



SHARIDAN CARRILLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER